

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
February 9, 2007**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

**Contact: Sandy Focken
(502) 582-5911**

MEMBER OF CHECK CASHING RING PLEADS GUILTY

– Illegal alien

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **JOSE S. PENADO**, of Los Angeles, California, **pled guilty** in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, to passing a counterfeit payroll check in the amount of \$596.54 at a bank in Louisville on July 16, 1999. He also passed three other counterfeit checks at banks in Lexington, Kentucky. He was arrested in California on the charge in September last year.

Penado was part of a check cashing ring from California which passed counterfeit business payroll checks at banks in Kentucky, Indiana and Texas. Six of the seven other members of the ring have pled guilty and been sentenced. **Penado** is also an illegal alien subject to deportation. He was previously deported to his home country of El Salvador in 2001.

Chief United States District Court Judge John G. Heyburn II will sentence **Penado** at a date to be scheduled.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James H. Barr and was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department.

- END -

DLH: JHB:2/8/07